

STAT

ASSOCIATED PRESS
27 October 1986

CIA Asks Police Chiefs for Recruitment Help

WASHINGTON

STAT The CIA, always on the lookout for people for its intelligence and anti-terrorism programs, urged police chiefs from 18 cities to help in its recruitment drive, a CIA spokeswoman said Sunday night.

Kathy Pherson, the CIA spokeswoman, said the CIA and FBI briefed the police chiefs last July about their intelligence and counterterrorism programs. During the session, the CIA asked the police chiefs to determine if anyone in their departments was interested in working for the intelligence agency.

"We're always looking for good people," Ms. Pherson said. "We have more than enough applications. But the trick is finding the people with the skills." She said that the CIA does a lot of its recruiting on college campuses that offer international studies programs because "students there have the background we're looking for." She said the agency also is interested in recruiting police officers because "they have some of the skills we're looking for." Police chiefs representing New York City, Philadelphia, Houston, Chicago, Boston and San Francisco were among those attending the briefing last summer.

STAT In a report in Monday's editions of The New York Times, New York City Police Commissioner Benjamin Ward confirmed that CIA Director William J. Casey had urged him and the top officials from other police departments to help in the recruitment project.

"Bill Casey informed us that the CIA was interested in hiring retired or presently employed police officers who had backgrounds in handling undercover operators or had been undercover operators themselves," the commissioner told the newspaper.

A department spokesman, Lt. Ed LeSchack, told The Associated Press Sunday night that 210 detectives and investigators in special units had expressed interest.

LeSchack said that 68 took an examination given by the CIA. The Times said the eight-hour exam given on Oct. 4 was the first screening step in the application process.

Ward told the Times that the request for recruitment assistance was the first the city has ever received.

"Nobody asked before. If they had, we would have done it," Ward said.